

## 8.0 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Nothing in this FMP is intended to inhibit or prevent any scientific research involving groundfish which is acknowledged by the Secretary or his delegee, and is to be conducted in the fishery management area by a scientific research vessel or a commercial vessel contracted to carry out scientific research.

Activity should not be acknowledged as scientific research unless it is submitted in writing to the Secretary or his delegee in the form of a research proposal which addresses all of the factors below. An activity may be acknowledged as scientific research if its primary objective, purpose, or product is the acquisition of data, information, or knowledge as determined by consideration of all of the following factors:

1. clearly researchable subject matter exists which will result in information useful for scientific or management purposes;
2. the application of existing knowledge alone is insufficient to solve the scientific or management subject presented by the scientific research proposal;
3. facts/data/samples will be collected or observed and analyzed in a scientifically acceptable manner and the results will be formally prepared and available to the public; and
4. recognized scientific experts, organizations, or institutions with expertise in the field or subject matter area are sponsoring or are otherwise affiliated with the activity.

### Secretarial Acknowledgment of Scientific Research.

1. If the Secretary or his delegee agrees that an activity constitutes scientific research involving groundfish, a letter of acknowledgment should be issued to the operator or master of the vessel conducting the scientific research.
2. The letter will include information on the purpose, scope, location, and schedule of the acknowledged activities.
3. Any activities not in accordance with the letter of acknowledgment should be subject to all provisions of the MFCMA and its implementing regulations.
4. The Secretary or his delegee should transmit copies of letters of acknowledgment to the Council and to state and federal administrative and enforcement agencies to ensure they are aware of the research activities.

Groundfish taken under the scientific research exclusion may be sold to offset all or part of the cost of carrying out the research plan including costs associated with operating the research vessel.